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General Assembly
Sixty-first session
Agenda items 76 and 80

Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Security Council
Sixty-second year

Letter dated 31 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a note verbale dated 30 March 2007, addressed to the British Embassy in Tehran by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, regarding the illegal act of firing shots by the British military forces at the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra, Iraq (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 76 and 80, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Javad **Zarif**

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Annex to the letter dated 31 March 2007 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran presents its compliments to the British Embassy in Tehran and has the honour to draw the attention of the latter to the following:

According to the information received from relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on Thursday 9 Farvardin 1386 (29 March 2007) at 10.30 a.m., the British military forces, in four armoured vehicles and with full military equipment, approached the premises of the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Basra, Iraq, and fired shots at the building for more than 10 minutes. The said forces left the area at 11.45 a.m. This was the third time that the British military forces approached the Iranian Consulate General in Basra, and the first time they fired shots at the building, in the course of the past month.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while strongly protesting against this act of the British military forces in Basra, which violates the principles of international law governing diplomatic premises and the mandate of British forces in Iraq, calls for the prevention of the recurrence of such acts and emphasizes that the responsibility for the consequences of any recurrence of such incidents lies with the British Government.